

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-101-C - ORDER NO. 97-575
JULY 7, 1997

IN RE: Entry of BellSouth Telecommunications,) ORDER DENYING
Inc. into InterLATA Toll Market.) PETITION FOR
) REHEARING OR
) RECONSIDERATION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Petition for Rehearing or Reconsideration of our Order No. 97-530 filed by MCI Telecommunications Corporation, Inc. (MCI). For the reasons stated below, we deny the Petition.

In Order No. 97-530, we held that the final decision on the applicability of either Track A or Track B should be deferred to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), since Federal law is involved in this issue. With regard to Track B availability, MCI requests that the Commission rehear or reconsider Order No. 97-530 in light of the Order of the FCC In the Matter of Application by SBC Communications, Inc., Pursuant to Section 271 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, To Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in Oklahoma, FCC 97-228, CC Docket No. 97-121, June 25, 1997 (herein to be called the FCC Order). MCI states its belief that the FCC's ruling therein with respect to the availability of Track B to RBOCs, such as BellSouth, resolves the

issue involving "Federal law" adversely to the position advanced by BellSouth in its written response to MCI's petition and in its oral argument in connection therewith heard by the Commission on June 11, 1997. This decision related to the application of SBC Corporation for interLATA relief for the State of Oklahoma.

We fail to see how a decision discussing interLATA relief for the State of Oklahoma should impact this Commission's decision to defer this matter to the FCC. The FCC has done nothing more than to make a ruling based on the facts presented with regard to the State of Oklahoma when the Company made its application. The FCC will, no doubt, make a ruling based on the facts presented to it whenever BellSouth makes an application with regard to interLATA relief for the State of South Carolina.

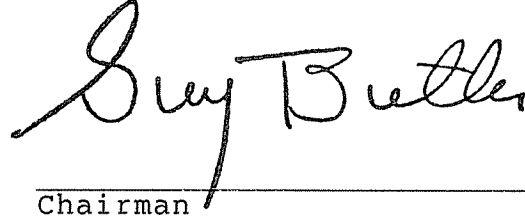
Obviously, the basis for BellSouth's application with regard to interLATA relief for the State of South Carolina will be based on the facts present in the State of South Carolina whenever the application may be filed with the FCC. We are not persuaded by an FCC decision discussing facts about the State of Oklahoma. We see no reason to modify our earlier decision regarding Track B.

Further, MCI urges us to reconsider our position with regard to the applicability of Track A. We once again decline to foreclose consideration of either Track at this time. We think that BellSouth should be able to furnish us with as much information as possible, so that we may carry out our consultative role with the FCC.

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The Petition is therefore denied. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Chairman

ATTEST:



Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)